Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-20 TAR-02 EUR-25 SPC-03 SAM-01

AID-20 EB-11 NSC-10 RSC-01 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-20

STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-02 INR-10

NSAE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06 SIL-01 PA-04 PRS-01

USIA-15 DRC-01 /206 W

----- 108458

R 082152Z FEB 74 FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6037 INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT OF SPAIN 349

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB PINT TD

SUBJECT: VIOLENCE ERUPTS IN SUGAR STRIKE

REF: POS 0318

1. WORKERS OCCUPYING THE SAN FERNANDO HEADQUARTERS OF THE ALL TRINIDAD SUGAR ESTATES & FACTORIES WORKERS TRADE UNION (ALL TRINIDAD) WERE ATTACKED DURING EARLY MORNING HOURS FEBRUARY 8. FIVE WORKERS WHO WERE HOSPITALIZED WERE ALL SUPPORTERS OF DEPOSED ALL TRINIDAD PRESIDENT PANDAY. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, THEY SAID THAT ABOUT NINE MEN ENTERED THE OFFICE ABOUT 4 A.M. TWO OF THE MEN WERE ARMED AND FIRED SHOTS OVER THEIR HEADS WHILE ORDERING THEM TO LEAVE. AS THEY LEFT THEY WERE SEVERELY BEATEN WITH HEAVY STICKS. THE ATTACKERS THEN DROVE AWAY IN TWO CARS.

2. THE SUGAR CANE WORKERS OCCUPYING THE BUILDING HAVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SAID THAT THEY WOULD NOT BE SCARED OFF BY THE BEATING.

THEY STILL ARE DETERMINED TO HOLD A MEETING THE AFTERNOON OF FEBRUARY 8 OF THE ALL TRINIDAD GENERAL COUNCIL TO RETURN PANDAY TO OFFICE. THE ALL TRINIDAD EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAS NOT SANCTIONED THE MEETING.

3. COMMENT: THIS IS THE FIRST KNOWN INCIDENT OF VIOLENCE IN THE PRESENT UNION DISPUTE ALTHOUGH THERE HAVE BEEN ACTS OF VIOLENCE ACCOMPANYING LEADERSHIP STRUGGLES IN ALL TRINIDAD IN PREVIOUS YEARS. TIMES HAVE CHANGED AND THE VIOLENCE AGAINST THE OPPOSITION FACTION MAY ON THIS OCCASION BRING OUT MORE SUPPORTERS FOR PANDAY FROM AMONG THE WORKERS WHO ARE TIRED OF BEING THREATENED OR USED BY THEIR LEADERS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: SUGAR, SUGAR WORKERS, LABOR STRIKES, NEGOTIATIONS, LABOR UNION OFFICIALS

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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Reference: POS 0318

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Review Event:

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Review Markings:

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: VIOLENCE ERUPTS IN SUGAR STRIKE

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, TD

To: STATE

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005